



# Michigan Social Studies C3 Update

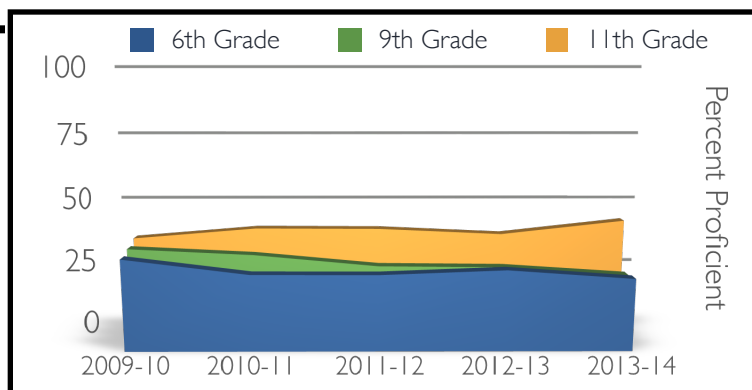
## A Plan for Adoption and Implementation

Michigan's current K-12 Social Studies Standards were written in 2006 to provide guidance for our state's K-12 social studies education as described by the Michigan Merit Curriculum. The C3 Framework, which promotes career, college, and civic readiness, and specifically addresses geography, history, economics, and civics, was released in 2013. Michigan was a lead developer in this framework, which guides states in updating content standards in these topics.

### Student Proficiency in Social Studies

Michigan students continue to struggle in social studies, and lag behind many states in student achievement in this topic, with less than half of our students being proficient in social studies. There are a variety of possible reasons for this, including poor preparation of educators, the lack of appropriate resources and time for instruction, a lack of focus on higher-order thinking skills, and an overly complex set of standards.

As a result of this and other feedback from educators, Michigan's social studies communities came together this past year to update the standards, with the mantra of "fewer, clearer, higher." The goal was to reduce and clarify the standards and introduce a framework for inquiry and questioning that focuses on higher order thinking skills. The group also focused on incorporating civil rights considerations and perspectives, and aligning the standards to the C3 Framework.



### The Arc of Inquiry

The organizing structure for the social studies framework, the "Arc of Inquiry," guides the instructional process, and is at the heart of the learning experience. It involves:

- Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries
- Applying Disciplinary Concepts and Tools
- Evaluating Sources and Using Evidence
- Communicating Conclusions and Taking Informed Action

This organizer supports social studies instruction at all levels, whether students are exploring questions around 21st century global economies or participating in an archeological "dig" (at right) to discover how people lived in Michigan over 700 years ago.



The State Board of Education is beginning to review the new standards now, and will be considering adoption later this year. For more information about this update, contact Gregg Dionne ([dionneg@michigan.gov](mailto:dionneg@michigan.gov)).